

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 COME-00 SMI-01 EB-07 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPA-04 CEQ-01 SP-02 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-10 /072 W
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P 181239Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1515

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11678

DEPT PASS TO US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, INTERIOR,
AND TO NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, GW

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADDITION OF CERTAIN SEA TURTLES TO
US LIST OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

REF: A. STATE 155105; B. STATE 087888 (APRIL 74);
C. BONN 6662 (APRIL 74); D. STATE 187 (JAN 74)

1. SUMMARY: FRG AUTHORITIES PROTEST ADDITION OF GREEN
SEA TURTLES (CHELONIA MYDAS) TO US LIST OF ENDANGERED
SPECIES BECAUSE THIS US ACTION WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE
ECONOMIC IMPACT ON GERMAN TURTLE SOUP INDUSTRY, MOST
OF WHICH USES TURTLES GROWN IN CAPTIVITY. FRG BE-
LIEVES SUCH MEASURES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY
AFTER DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM AT A CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES, AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE XI OF THE CONVENTION ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT FRG AUTHORITIES EXPRESSED
AN ACTIVE INTEREST WHEN EMBASSY NOTIFIED THEM IN EARLY
1974 THAT USG PLANNED TO LIST CERTAIN SEA TURTLES AS
ENDANGERED SPECIES. (SEE REFS B,C AND D; AND THE
EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES POUCHED TO S/FW-COA IN APRIL
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L974). ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY COMMUNICATED SUBSTANCE OF

REF A TO FRG BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE. WE HAVE RECEIVED
FOLLOWING RESPONSE FROM FRG MINISTRY OF FOOD,
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY : (BEGIN INFORMAL TRANSLATION):

CHELONIA MYDAS (GREEN SEA TURTLE) WHICH IS INCLUDED
AMONG THE SEA TURTLES MENTIONED IN (THE EMBASSY'S)
NOTE IS SIGNIFICANT IN THE GERMAN FOOD INDUSTRY.
CHELONIA MYDAS IS LISTED IN APPENDIX II OF THE
CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED
SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA OF MARCH 3, 1973,

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1516

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AND THUS ENJOYS APPROPRIATE PROTECTION.

THE PROPOSED RULE-MAKING OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA IS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THIS
PROTECTION AND APPEARS LIKELY TO FORMALIZE AND
INTERFERE WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADE BEYOND THE
PROVISIONS OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONVENTION.
CONTRARY TO PARAGRAPH 5 OF ARTICLE VII OF THE
CONVENTION, THIS SEEMS TO APPLY ALSO TO SPECIMENS
BRED IN CAPTIVITY. (EMBASSY NOTE: I.E. THE ABSOLUTE
PROHIBITION OF IMPORT INTO THE US RATHER THAN
ACCEPTANCE OF A CERTIFICATE FROM THE MANAGEMENT

AUTHORITY THAT THE TURTLE WAS BRED IN CAPTIVITY.)

IN VIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONVENTION -- TO CARRY OUT INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIFORM STANDARDS AND RULES -- AND THE KNOWN DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DEGREE OF DANGER THREATENING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SEA TURTLES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR BEING BRED IN CAPTIVITY, NEW MEASURES SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, BE TAKEN ONLY AFTER A DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM DURING A CONFERENCE AS PROVIDED IN THE CONVENTION (ARTICLE XI).

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END INFORMAL TRANSLATION.

3. EMBASSY HAS DRAWN ON REF B TO EXPLAIN PROPOSED US ACTION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR A FORMAL REPLY TO FRG.
HILLENBRAND

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